

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2004 without my signature.

While I share the author's goal of ensuring that youth receive health services when they are released from custody, I am unable to support AB 2004 as it does not effectively address the key challenge – the need for better coordination between county welfare, county probation and juvenile detention facilities. In addition, I am concerned that suspension of Medi-Cal eligibility will require costly automation changes, be administratively complex and may lead to increased fraud or abuse.

A more effective way of ensuring youth continue to receive health services when they are released is through coordination of discharge planning at the local level. This is why I signed SB 1469, which would create a collaborative effort between state and local agencies to ensure that a minor receives appropriate services when being released. I am also directing the Department of Health Services and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to develop and implement a memorandum of understanding that will establish a process for achieving this coordination at the state level.

For these reasons, I cannot support this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger